

As long ago as 1857, Prof. Baird characterized the so-called Second American Edition of Guthrie's Geography as "exceedingly rare," adding, "I have never, even in Philadelphia, been able to see a perfect copy. The Library of the Philadelphia Academy has the natural history portion, separate."

It is probably to this copy that Dr. Coues refers in the Bibliographic Appendix to his *Birds of the Colorado Valley*. After giving part of the title of this specimen, Dr. Coues notes, "above title defective after the first two lines, the only copy I ever handled, having part of the title page torn off."

The all-around desirability of such a rare work, and the well known activity of Dr. Coues in his bibliographic researches, seem to have failed in revealing another copy, and, what is more unfortunate, to have resulted in the mysterious disappearance of the copy belonging to the Library of the Academy of Natural Sciences.

The numerous applications from scientists, both at home and abroad, for citations from this historic copy evidenced the extreme scarcity, if not extinction, of this edition of Guthrie's Geography and inspired certain workers at the Academy to renewed diligence in the search for it. In a casual conversation with Dr. Edward J. Nolan, Librarian of the Academy, last November, he suggested to me that Mr. Ord, having presented a quantity of his private books and papers to the Philadelphia College of Physicians, it would be well to ask the College Librarian if they had a copy of the long-lost work. On application, I was informed that their library did not contain it, but as I was leaving, the librarian remarked that I might inquire of Dr. J. Solis Cohen, that gentleman having purchased a number of books and papers not coming within the scope of their library. I visited Dr. Cohen and after a delay of two days received a letter announcing that he had a perfect copy of the book I was after, containing marginal pencil notes on the zoological portion. On comparing these notes with Mr. Ord's letters written at that period, I feel no hesitation in attributing their authorship to him, not only from the chirographic resemblance but from the character of the notes themselves.

As a reward for having identified the work, Dr. Cohen has kindly placed the same in my custody until the present reprint could be satisfactorily completed. For this courtesy Dr. Cohen deserves not only the sincere gratitude of the editor, but of the scientific world, for to his interest in these matters we owe the rescue of an invaluable work from the musty chaos of some old book-store, or a fate even more obscure.